

# Neighborhoods in the Know

A GREENVILLE POLICE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

## FEBRUARY 2012 ISSUE

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Terri Wilfong



T. Pearson and J. Bell

**Congratulations** to Officers Travis Pearson and Jim Bell who were promoted to Sergeant on December 16, 2011.

Sgt. Pearson has served with the Greenville Police Department for ten years, with nine years of service as a member of the Selective Traffic Enforcement Unit.

Sgt. Bell has been with the department for seventeen years. He has served with the Selective Traffic Enforcement Unit and was assigned to the Special Events Unit prior to his promotion to the rank of Sergeant.

## Field Training Officers are Role Models

The Greenville Police Department's Field Training Officers, (F.T.O.), are the recruit's first role models when starting their law enforcement careers. We select F.T.O.'s that exemplify excellence in both leadership and commitment. An F.T.O. is assigned a recruit after the recruit successfully completes the 12-week Basic Law Enforcement Class at the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy in Columbia. Our Field Training Program is 22-weeks long requiring the recruit to be graded on a daily basis. Once the program is successfully completed, the recruit is then a solo officer and will begin working an assigned area.



FIELD TRAINING OFFICER GRADUATION  
NOVEMBER 30, 2011

Instructor Cpl. Chl Blair, PFC Luke Paramore, Cpl. Andy Ross, PFC Kevin Suddeth, PFC Stephen Brown, PFC Eric Koepke, PFC Andrew Smith, PFC Robert Lewis, PFC Jarred Mann, PFC Jesse Lowe, PFC Richard Schwartz, Instructor CPL Mike Estes







## Police K9 Unit

In order to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the Greenville Police Department, the Canine (K-9) Services Unit provides a highly trained canine team to protect persons and property in Greenville, and increase the safety of Officers confronting any suspect who may represent a threat. Canine teams are a valuable tool in law enforcement used for criminal apprehension, building searches, area searches, evidence detection, narcotics or explosive detection, tracking missing persons, tracking fleeing persons, crowd control, and for promoting favorable public relations.

The Greenville Police Department K-9 Services Unit consists of five dog teams. The unit is under the direction of Major Robin Smith and is assigned to the Operations Division.

The dog teams work assigned shifts supporting uniformed patrol officers in their daily patrol activities. Unlike patrol officers, the dog teams are not assigned to a regular beat and can work the entire city. This allows the K-9 units to work problem areas and to focus on criminal interdiction. All K-9 units are on-call 24-hours a day, seven days a week to assist in the detection of contraband and explosives, and to

locate missing persons and fleeing criminal suspects. All dog handlers are responsible for their dog at all times, living at home with their handler and his family.



The police dogs go through a 600 hour training course with their handlers before they are allowed to work the streets. After the initial training course, the dog and handler are then certified through the North American Police Work Dog Association (NAPWDA). This is a yearly certification that the dog team must pass in order to continue working in the community. Dog teams train 10 hours per week to maintain their keen skills.

K-9's Fox, Nemo, Chanko and Nero are dual purpose patrol dogs. These dogs are skilled at drug detection, tracking, building searches, article searches, handler protection, aggression control and obedience. K-9 Barry is also a dual purpose

patrol dog, but instead of drug detection he is trained to detect multiple odors of explosives and is frequently used to locate firearms. Working hand-in-hand with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies, the K-9 units provide safety and security to the citizens of the City of Greenville.

K-9 patrol vehicles are equipped with specialized equipment to transport our dogs and keep them safe. The vehicles are equipped with alarms that notify the handler of the temperature inside the vehicle to assure the inside of the vehicles are kept at a comfortable temperature for the dog. The vehicles are also equipped with remote "door poppers" which allow the handler to release their dog in situations where the handler is in trouble or is being attacked.

Our K-9 teams are available to the public to do canine demonstrations and to participate in community functions. They frequently visit schools, churches and businesses to display the unit's abilities. If you would like a member of our team to visit your function please give us a call at 467-5301 and we will be glad to assist you. Our dogs and handlers love to show off their skills and professionalism.





**On November 25, 2011** Jonathan Shawn Young was fatally shot in the area of Sullivan St. and Dean St. Greenville Police Detectives worked diligently around the clock to follow leads and question witnesses in an attempt to locate and arrest the person responsible. Recently, Detectives were given information that led to the positive identification of Joseph Christopher Walker. With the help of the US Marshals Service Fugitive Task Force (Operation Intercept) involving Greenville Police, Greenville County Sheriff's Office, and the US Marshals Service, Walker was apprehended and is now being charged with Murder and Possession of a Weapon during a Violent Crime. It is important to note that this is an ongoing investigation as there still may be witnesses or others who may have more information regarding this case. Those with information are asked to call 271-GCPD or 23-CRIME.

**On December 26, 2011** at approximately 2:17 am, Greenville Police responded to 28 Bolt St. where Billy Jo Jamison was found deceased in front of Long Branch Baptist Church. Detectives worked diligently interviewing persons of interest and following leads, in an attempt to bring this case to a close. With the collaboration between Detectives and the US Marshals Service Fugitive Task Force, more information was obtained that led to the arrests of three individuals. Arthur Napoleon Ferguson is charged with Murder, Odies Gambrell is charged with Accessory After the Fact to a Felony, and Michael Edmond Keys is charged with Accessory After the Fact to a Felony.

**Officers P.J. Barham and J.H. Rackley** responded to a burglary in progress at Breckinridge Apartments on January 1<sup>st</sup>. They met with the com-



plainant who stated he had just gotten off work and noticed a broken window at his next door neighbor's apartment. When the officers entered the apartment they found the suspect passed out on the couch. Contact was made with the victim who was out of town on vacation. She stated that she lived alone and no one was supposed to be in her apartment. Suspect was placed under arrest and transported to the detention center.

**On January 2, Officer J.H. Rackley** responded to an alarm at the ATM of Regions Bank on South Pleasantburg Drive. Upon arrival, he noticed two subjects dressed in all black fleeing from the direction of the ATM. One subject was apprehended after a pursuit and with the assistance of K-9 Unit Fox and Cpl. Austin; the second suspect was also apprehended. Both subjects were juveniles and were placed in Juvenile Detention.

**While on routine patrol** in an unmarked car on Friday January 13<sup>th</sup>, Lieutenant J. H. Thompson observed a vehicle matching a suspect vehicle connected to recent autobreakings. When he ran the tag, it came back stolen. At this point the vehicle had traveled into the county and Lt.

Thompson advised the Sheriff's Office of the location of the vehicle. Deputies responded and the driver was placed under arrest. Upon further investigation, the suspect admitted to Detective C.K. Cothran of one autobreaking and to tampering with a vehicle in the Club Forest area. He further admitted to an autobreaking from last month at Laurel Woods Apartments. The investigation is still pending due to further information and other possible suspects.

**On Saturday, January 14,** Investigator E.F. Irick and Officers J.M. Dempsey, E.G. Pistolis and T.J. Harrison arrested a man wanted by Greer Police Department for two counts of Criminal Sexual Conduct 1<sup>st</sup> Degree. The Greer Police Department notified our agency that the suspect's family members had purchased a bus ticket for him and he was scheduled to arrive in at the Greyhound Bus Station in Greenville later in the evening. The officers set up on the Greyhound bus station and placed the subject under arrest.



## Upcoming Events in the City

**The Ringling Brothers - Barnum and Bailey Circus** is returning to Greenville on Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup> through Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012. As a reminder, the circus animals will arrive on January 31<sup>st</sup> at the train station on West Washington Street. The anticipated route is:

1. Washington to Richardson Street
2. Richardson to Elford Street
3. Elford to Church Street Intersection
4. Across Church Street then into the Bi-Lo Center



\*\* Arrival time is pending at this time. The arrival time and the duration of impact to affected streets will be determined upon notification by circus personnel.



On February 14<sup>th</sup>, the **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Julie Valentine Luncheon** will be held at the TD Center. The Julie Valentine Center will have featured guest, Elizabeth Smart, and other survivors share their heroic stories of survival from assault and abuse. The luncheon will be held to reach out to those in the community who have survived child abuse and sexual assault and also to celebrate those that the Center has been able to help over the last year.



**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:**  
Crime Prevention Specialist  
Officer Courtney R. Palmer  
4 McGee Street,  
Greenville, SC 29601  
Phone: 864-467-5147  
Fax: 864-467-5198  
cpalmer@greenvillesc.gov



**The GPD is asking for your assistance** to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and to reduce vehicle thefts and thefts from motor vehicles. It is important to remember that if you have a gun in your vehicle and you must leave it inside, keep it locked in the glove box. If you are at home, do not leave it in your vehicle, bring it inside. Do not help to arm our criminals by leaving your weapon unsecured in your vehicle. Unlocked motor vehicles and leaving items of value (purses, wallets, electronics, vehicle keys and money) within view is another significant contributing factor to these criminal offenses. Always lock your vehicle and never leave vehicle keys inside of a vehicle at any time. Valuables and personal items such as electronics (GPS, iPods, computers), purses, wallets and briefcases should be removed or secured within the vehicle trunk to minimize the probability of theft.

**Emergency : 911**  
**Non-Emergency Police Dispatch & Information: 271-5333**  
**Greenville Police Tip Line: 271-GCPD (4273)**  
**Front Desk: 467-5258**  
**Victim Services: 467-5373**  
**Investigations: 467-5342**  
**Uniform Patrol: 467-5325**  
**Special Events Coordinator: 467-5014**  
**City of Greenville Website: [www.greenvillesc.gov](http://www.greenvillesc.gov)**  
**Police Website: [www.police.greenvillesc.gov/](http://www.police.greenvillesc.gov/)**

